

MARVEL  
COMICS

FROM THE PAGES OF  
THE X-MEN!

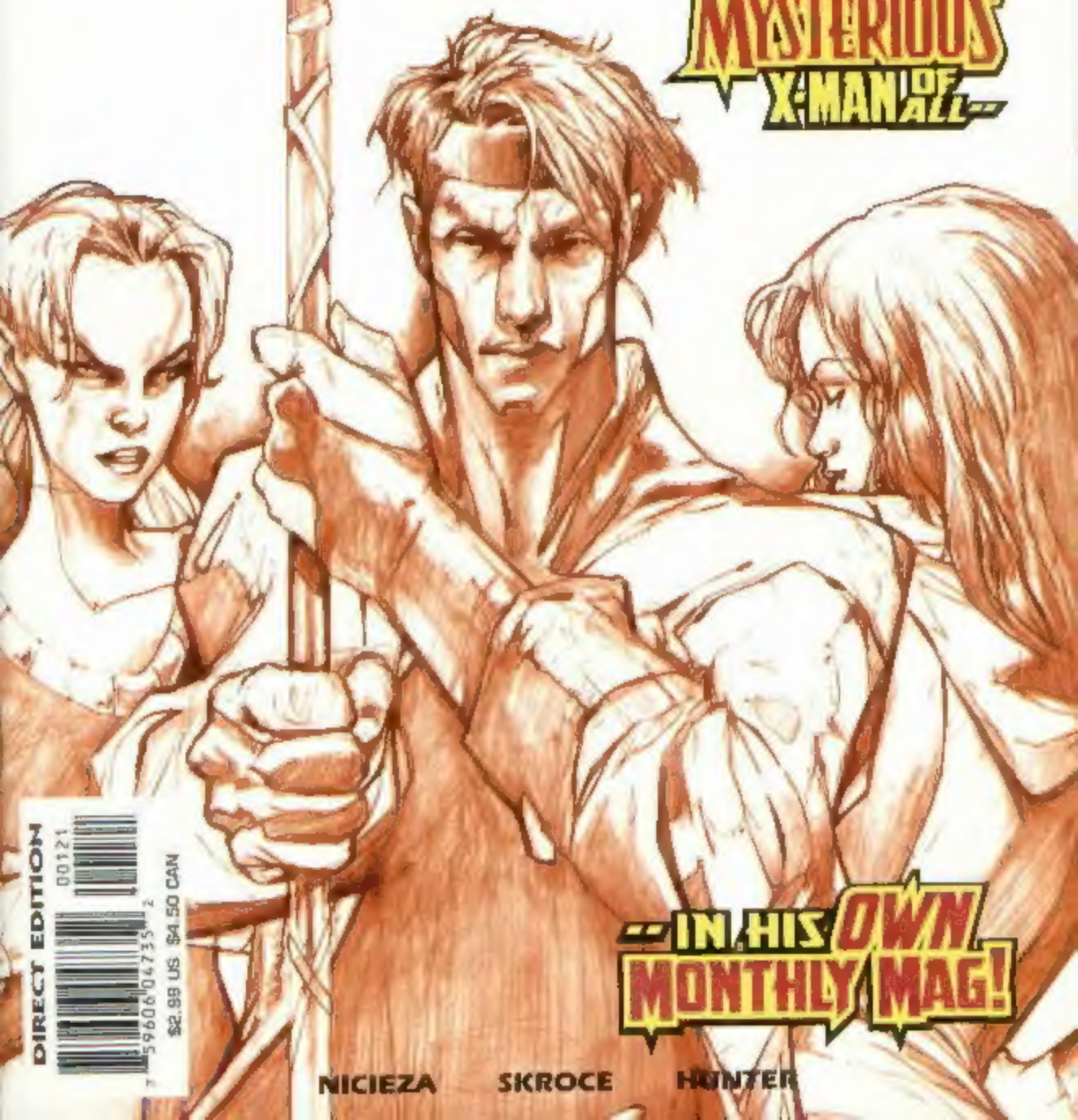
# GAMBIT

GIANT-  
SIZED  
1ST  
ISSUE!

FEB #1

WWW.MARVEL.COM

THE MOST  
MYSTERIOUS  
X-MAN OF ALL



IN HIS OWN  
MONTHLY MAG!

DIRECT EDITION

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NICIEZA

SKROCE

HUNTER



SECRETS.  
WE ALL HAVE  
THEM. SOME GET  
TAKEN TO THE  
GRAVE.

MANY  
CENTURIES AGO,  
GARBHA-HSIEN  
RULED IN WHAT WE NOW  
CALL THE HOPEW  
PROVINCE OF  
CHINA.

IF YOU  
LIVED IN THE  
SHADOWS OF THE  
WU-TAI SHAN  
RANGE, THEN YOU  
LIVED UNDER HIS  
THUMB.

FAR  
AS ANCIENT  
WARLORDS  
GO, HE WASN'T A  
CUPCAKE, BUT HE  
COULDN'T BEEN  
WORSE.



12 SITES OF GARBHA-  
HSIEN TEMPLES



HE WAS  
BOTH A VISIONARY  
AND A SAVAGE -- AND  
WE'VE FINALLY UNCOVERED  
THE TWELFTH AND FINAL  
TEMPLE OF HSIEN'S TWELFTH  
AND FINAL CHILD!

WE ARE ALL  
IN YOUR DEBT,  
SEKMENT.

PUH-SHAW.  
DON'T COUNT YOUR  
CHICKENS YET,  
ANWAR.

ANWAR ANUBAR,  
C.E.O. OF THE  
MILITARY RESEARCH  
FIRM, ELYSIUM  
ENTERPRISES.

SEKMENT CONWAY,  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENGINEER,  
MINING THE PAST FOR  
TREASURES THAT WILL  
SERVE THE FUTURE.



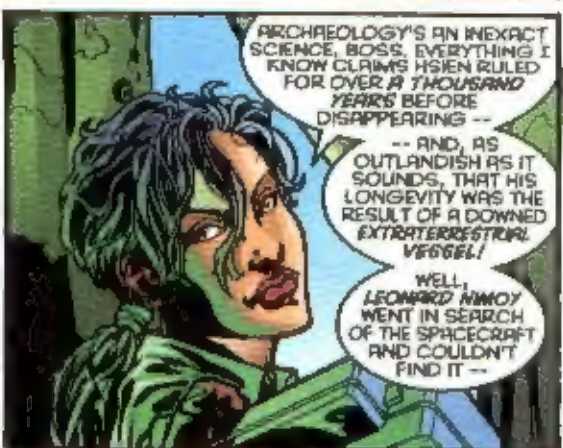
FOR ALL  
THE MONEY I  
HAVE SPENT, YOU  
COULD SHOW MORE  
CONFIDENCE.



ARCHAEOLOGY'S AN INEXACT  
SCIENCE, BOSS. EVERYTHING I  
KNOW CLAIMS HSIEN RULED  
FOR OVER A THOUSAND  
YEARS BEFORE  
DISAPPEARING --

-- AND, AS  
OUTLANDISH AS IT  
SOUNDS, THAT HIS  
LONGEVITY WAS THE  
RESULT OF A DOWNED  
EXTRATERRESTRIAL  
VEGGE!

WELL,  
LEONARD NIMOY  
WENT IN SEARCH  
OF THE SPACECRAFT  
AND COULDN'T  
FIND IT --







— BUT AFTER FOUR YEARS, MAYBE WE HAVE.

THE FIRST ELEVEN TEMPLES HAD BITS OF INFO ABOUT THIS VESSEL —

— LEADING TO THE TWELFTH TOMB AND THE WHOLE ENCHILADA!

YOU EXPECT WE WILL FIND THE ACTUAL SHIP ITSELF —?

OKAY, EXAGGERATION MODE OFF — I WAS HOPING FOR MORE LIKE A DETAILED SCHEMATIC OR A WORKING PIECE OF THE SHIP.

THAT'S ALL?



THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH!

I SUPPOSE.

HOW JADED HAVE YOU BECOME TO THE THRILL OF THE CHASE?

I THRILL TO THE ENDS, NOT THE MEANS. DO WE REALLY NEED ALL THIS SECURITY?



HEY, THE ELFBORN GUARD — ELLENTHROPE, COSMO AND FARLEY — ARE HERE TO PROTECT YOU.

THE AMERICAN SPECIAL AGENT, CARL DENTI, JUST FLEW IN-SITE AN HOUR AGO.



A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, MR. ANUBAR.

BECAUSE OF HSIEN'S SUPPOSED PAST, THE CHINESE ASKED MY GOVERNMENT TO... PROTECT THE SITE.

I WAS BROUGHT IN AS HEAD OF THE U.S. SUPERHUMAN INVESTIGATIONS TEAM.

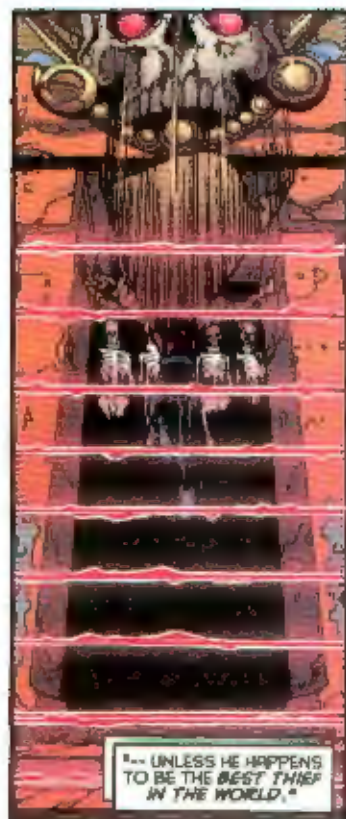
A REGULAR INTERNATIONAL PARTY. FEAR MAKES FOR GREAT DITTE, DOESN'T IT?



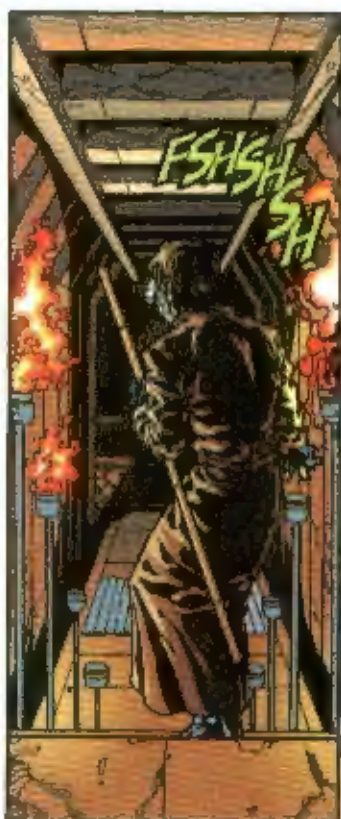
IT'S MORE ABOUT POWER, MR. CONOWAY — AND KNOWING HOW TO CONTROL ITS USE AND ABUSE.

WELL, BIG BOY, WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYONE GETTING INTO HSIEN'S TOMB —





"... UNLESS HE HAPPENS TO BE THE BEST THIEF IN THE WORLD."



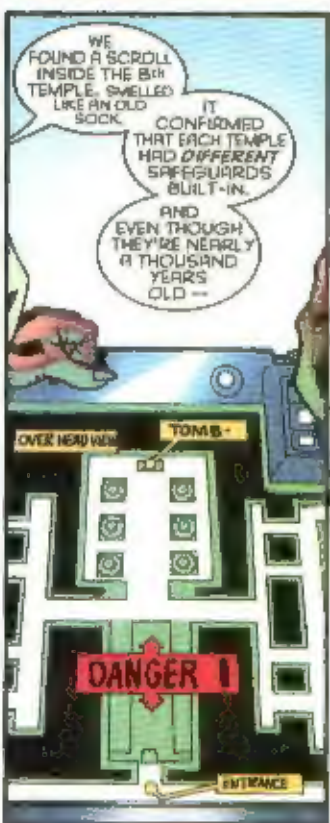
FARLEY -- I WAS BRIEFED THAT YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES.

ALL THE OTHER TEMPLES HAD 'EM, WE LOST TEN PEOPLE TO THEM SO FAR.

I'D HEARD MR. CONWAY WAS A MAVERICK, BUT SHE'S RECKLESS, TOO?

WHAT KIND OF SCIENTIST ARE YOU, MRAMP?

THE KIND WHO DREAMS BIG AND SCHEMES BIGGER. MR. DENT, I'D EXPECT A MAN WHO MONITORS SUPERHUMANS TO HAVE A MORE OPEN MIND.



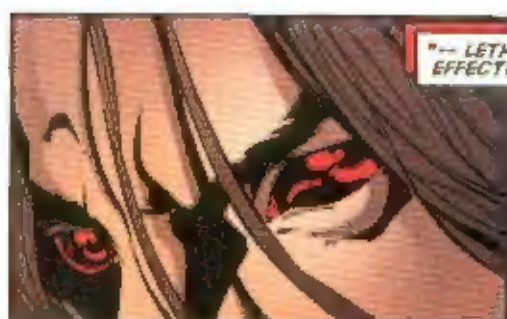
WE FOUND A SCROLL INSIDE THE 8TH TEMPLE, SMELLED LIKE AN OLD SOCK.

IT CONFIRMED THAT EACH TEMPLE HAD DIFFERENT SAFEGUARDS BUILT-IN. AND EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NEARLY A THOUSAND YEARS OLD --

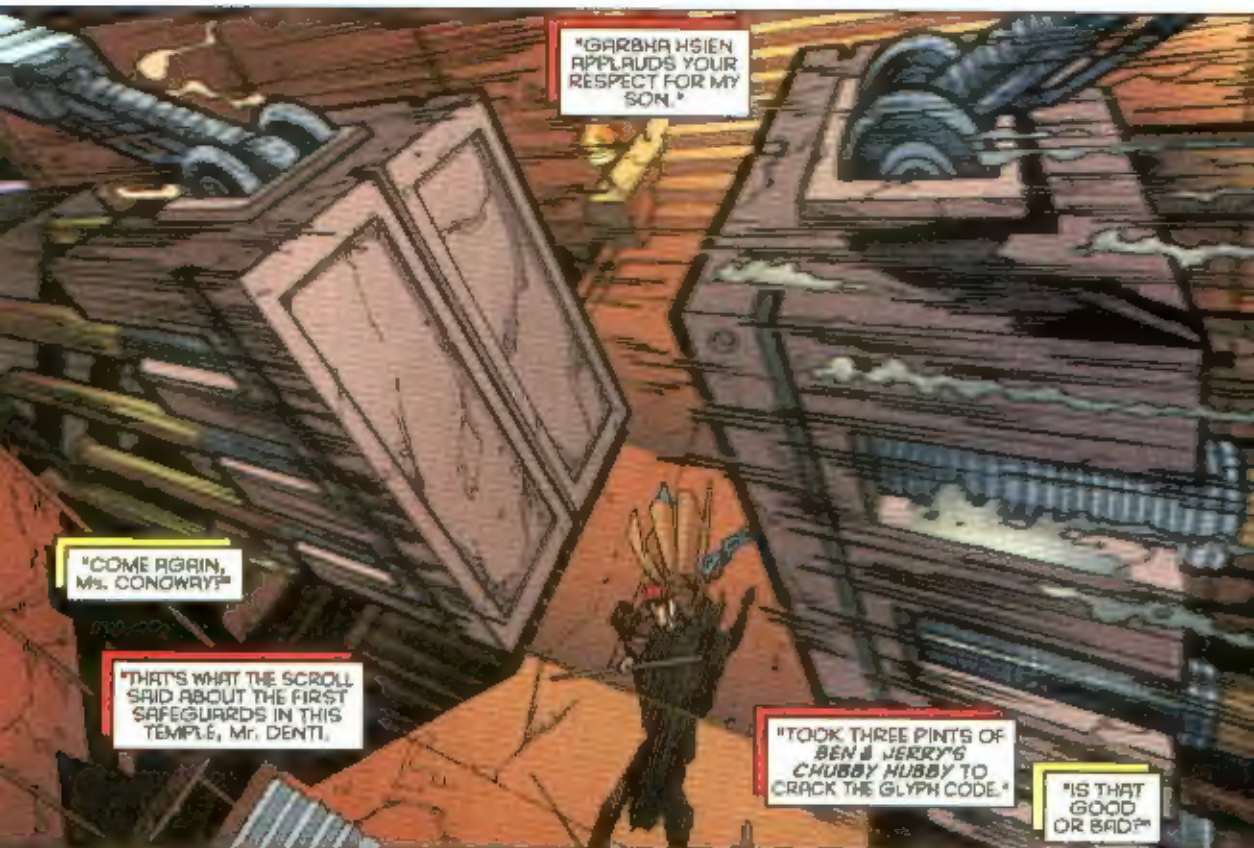


"... WE LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT THESE PROTECTIVE DEVICES CAN BE --





"... LETHALLY EFFECTIVE!"



"GARBAH HSIEN  
APPLAUDS YOUR  
RESPECT FOR MY  
SON."

"COME AGAIN,  
Ms. CONWAY?"

"THAT'S WHAT THE SCROLL  
SAID ABOUT THE FIRST  
SAFEGUARDS IN THIS  
TEMPLE, Mr. DENTI.

"TOOK THREE PINTS OF  
BEN & JERRY'S  
CHUBBY HUBBY TO  
CRACK THE GLYPH CODE."

"IS THAT  
GOOD  
OR BAD?"



"WELL, BOTH, I GUESS.  
EGO BRUISE, BUT  
TUMMY-YUMMY. USUALLY  
ONLY TAKES ME ONE.

"IN ANY EVENT, THE  
FIRST BLOCKADE ON  
THIS TEMPLE INVOLVES  
'APPLAUDING' IN  
SOME WAY.



"SO UNLESS THIS  
'MASTER THIEF' OF  
YOURS HAD THAT  
INFORMATION  
GOING IN --"

**Stan Lee Presents:**



# GAMBIT

**Fabian Nicieza**

**Steve Skroce**

**Storytellers**

**Rob Hunter**

**Inker**

GAMBIT created by  
**JIM LEE &  
CHRIS CLAREMONT**

"... CHANCES ARE HE,  
SHE OR IT WOULDN'T  
EVEN GET PAST  
ROUND ONE!"

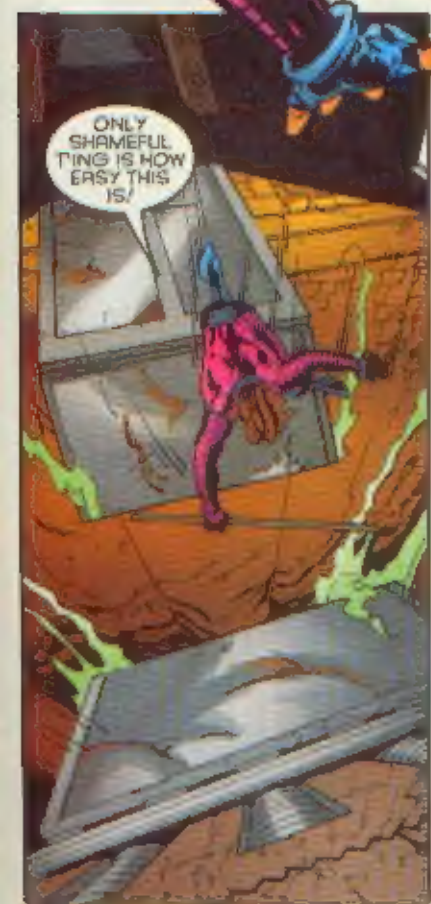
**DROGUE!**

"THE TEMPLE  
LIVES TO JUDGE THE  
WORTHINESS OF ALL  
WORSHIPPERS."

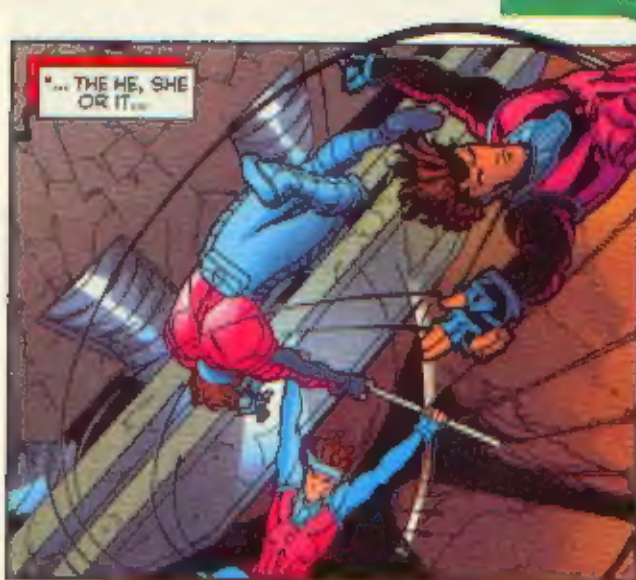
OLDES'  
TRICK IN DE  
BOOK; AN' I  
ALMOST FELL  
FOR IT.

OKAY --  
WHAT WAS  
THE SECOND  
VERSE, P.





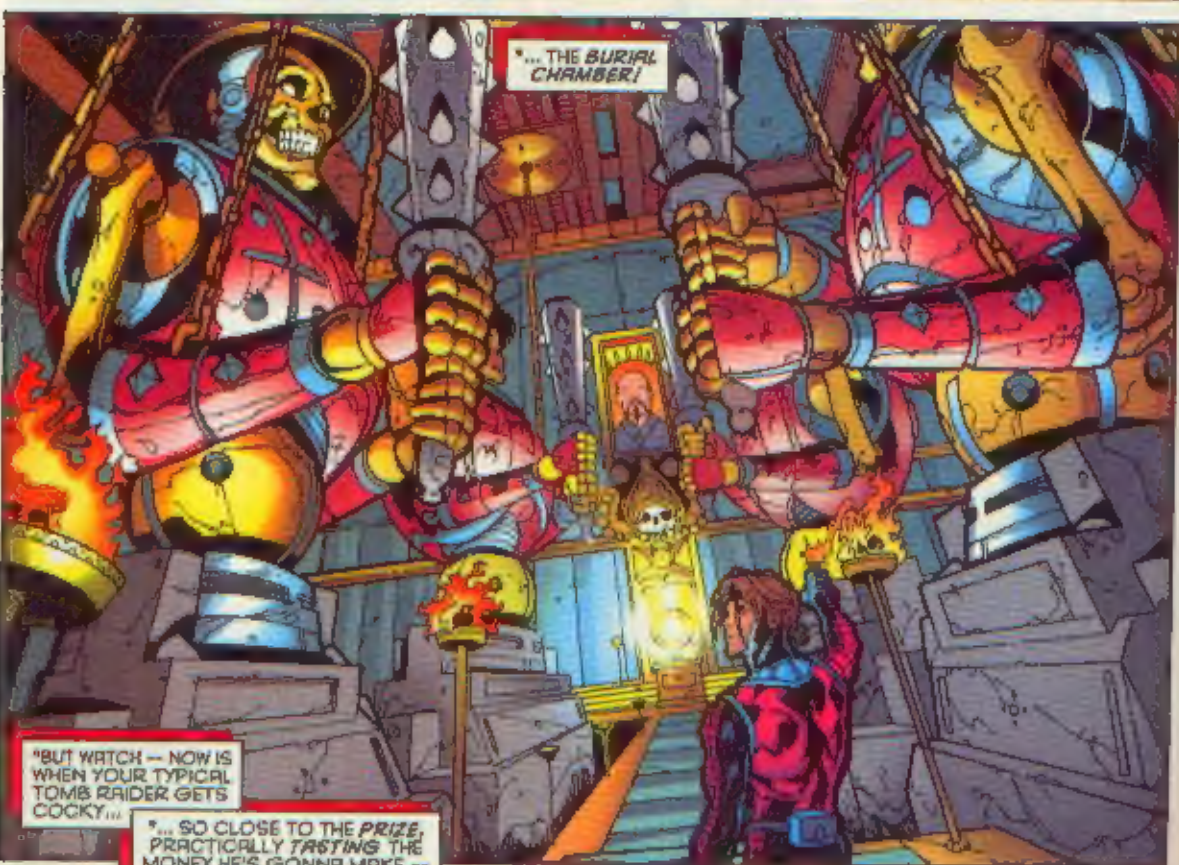




"... THE HE, SHE  
OR IT..."



"... THAT JUST  
REACHED..."



"... THE BURIAL  
CHAMBER!"

"BUT WATCH -- NOW IS  
WHEN YOUR TYPICAL  
TOMB RAIDER GETS  
COCKY..."

"... SO CLOSE TO THE PRIZE,  
PRACTICALLY TASTING THE  
MONEY HE'S GONNA MAKE --  
HE FORGETS THE LITTLE DETAILS."



"LIKE THAT ONE  
FINAL  
SAFEGUARD --"



CHINK  
CHINK



"TO PROTECT  
MY SON, THE  
DEAD WILL LIVE  
AGAIN..."













READINGS  
ARE OFF THE  
CHART. SOME  
KIND OF ENERGY  
DISCHARGE...

DEFINITELY  
SUPERHUMAN  
ACTIVITY

I GOT A  
MARK

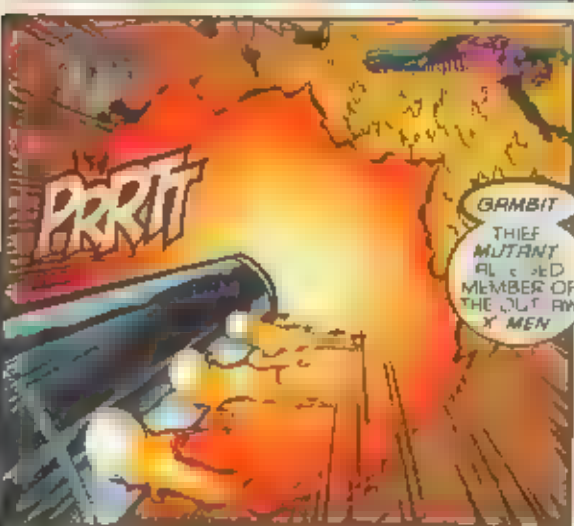
INCOMING

PRRTT

PRRTT



OUTGOING!



PRRTT

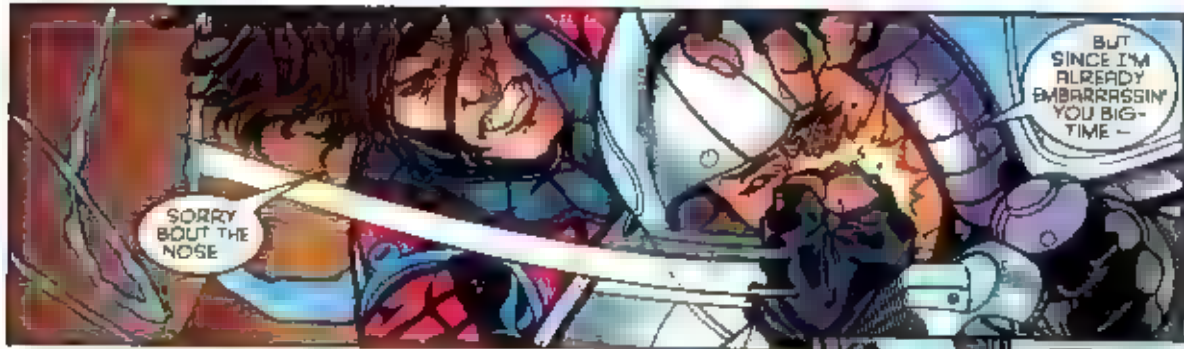
GAMBIT  
THIEF  
MUTANT  
ALSO  
MEMBER OF  
THE OLD AW  
X-MEN



ACCORDING TO OUR  
INTELLIGENCE FILES HE CAN  
BIOKINETICALLY CHARGE  
OBJECTS

SCUSE  
ME





SORRY ABOUT THE NOSE

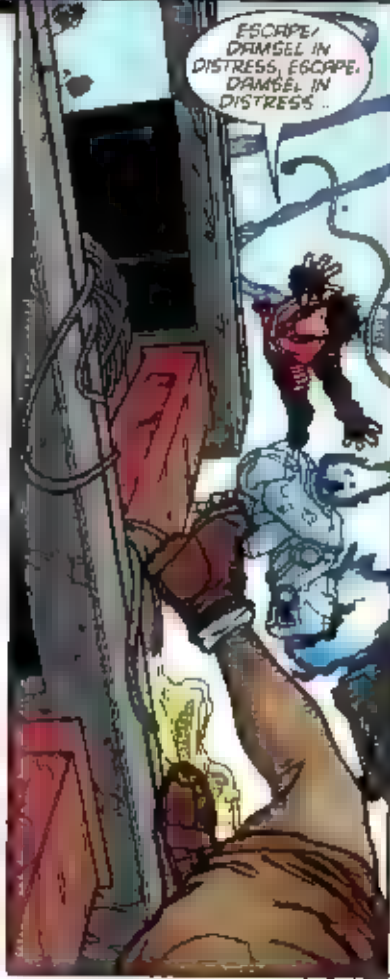
BUT SINCE I'M ALREADY EMBARRASSIN' YOU BIG-TIME -



SEK!

WHOOOPS.

- S'IT OKAY IF I USE YOU T'MAKE MY GETAWAY?

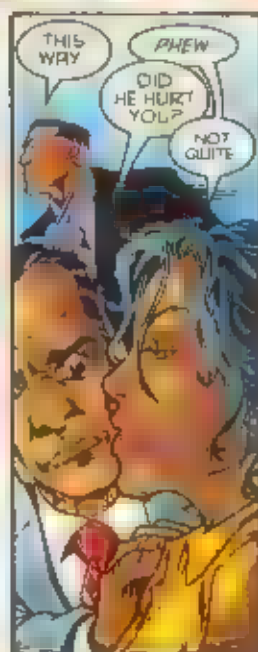
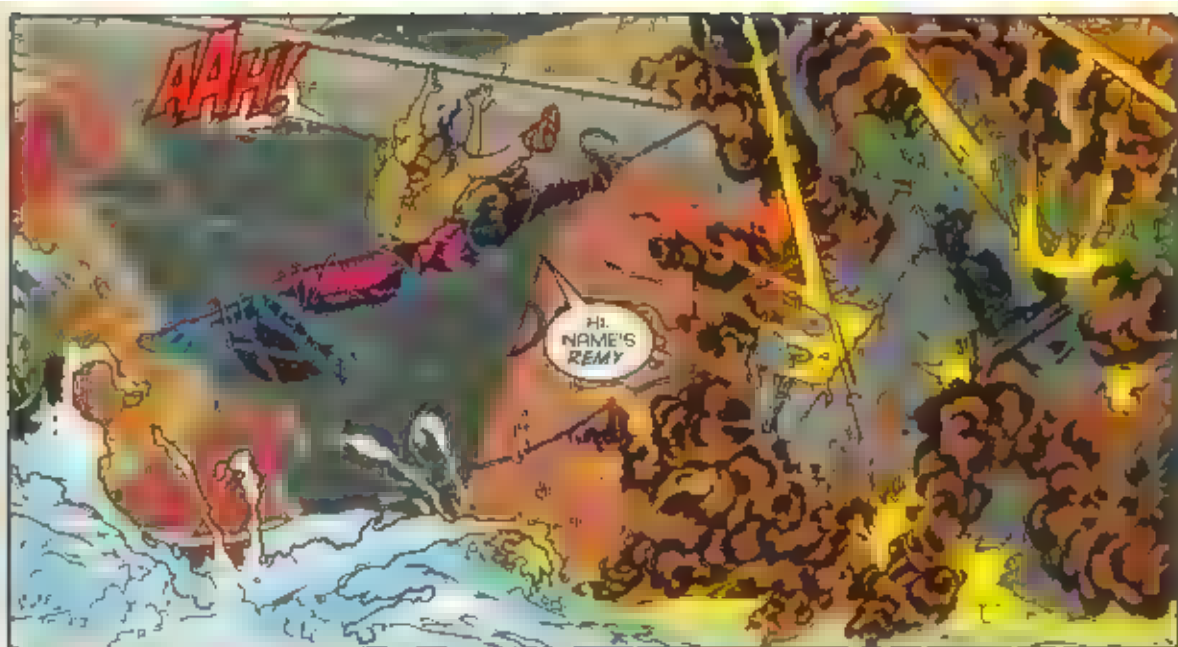


ESCAPE! DAMEL IN DISTRESS, ESCAPE. DAMEL IN DISTRESS..

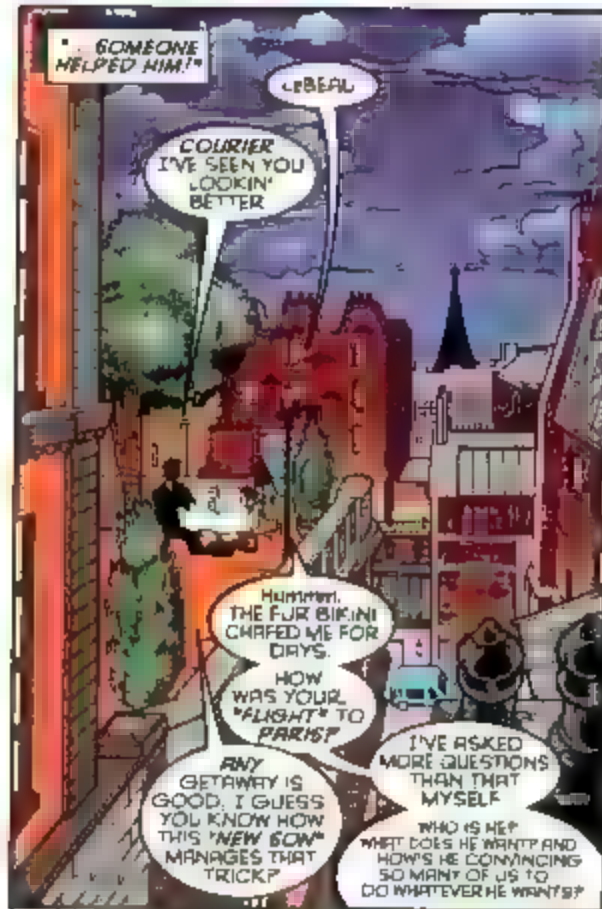


... LEBEAU, YOU'RE SO PREDICTABLE.











THINGS  
ARE A MESS.  
AREN'T THEY  
JERN-LUC  
LEBEAU?

WHO  
ARE YOU?  
WHERE AM  
I?

WHY  
WE'RE INSIDE  
YOUR DREAMS.  
JERN-LUC  
AND  
MOST PEOPLE WHO  
KNOW ME CALL ME  
FONTANELLE

BUT  
ENOUGH  
ABOUT ME  
THIS IS  
ABOUT  
YOU.

LIFE IS  
IN DISARRAY,  
HAP THE ASSASSIN  
GUILD AND YOUR  
THIEVES GUILD HAVE  
REJECTED YOUR  
CALLS FOR  
ORDER.

FRACTURED  
CLANS WITHIN  
FRACTURED  
GUILDS

EBEAL VERSUS MARCEAUX  
BOURDOIS VS AVANAULTS  
ALL BECAUSE OUR POWER  
AND OUR IMMORTALITY  
HAVE WAXED AS A  
RESULT OF L'ANDRA'S  
DISAPPEARANCE

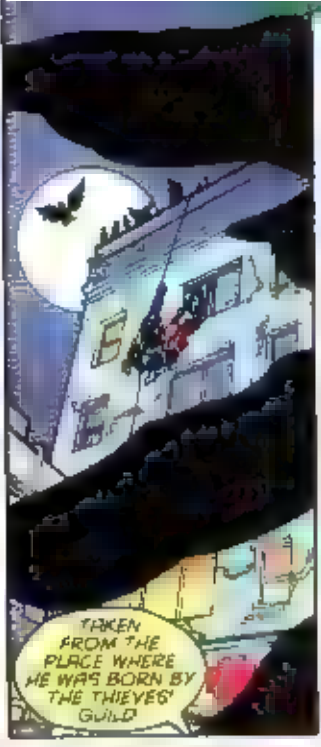
HND  
WHERE  
PHWOO

DOES YOUR  
POOR MISUNDERSTOOD  
ADOPTED SON FIT IN?



WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF REMY?  
LE DIABLE BLANC RUMORS  
SPREAD ACROSS  
THE BIG EASY

HE WAS  
BORN WITH  
AN ANGEL'S  
SMILE AND  
THE DEVIL'S  
EYE

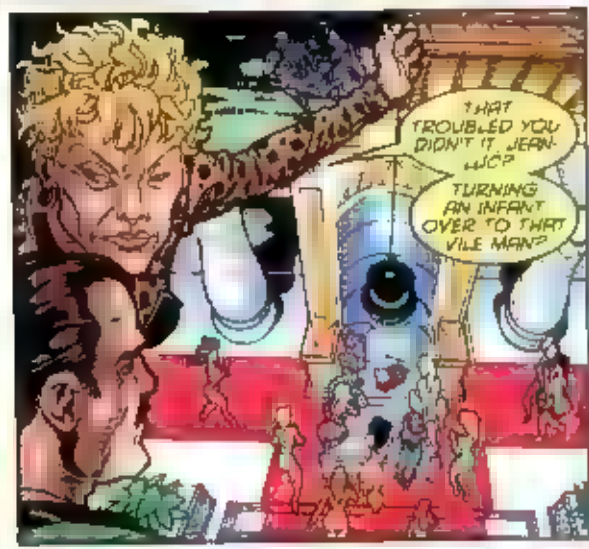


TAKEN  
FROM THE  
PLACE WHERE  
HE WAS BORN BY  
THE THIEVES'  
GUILD

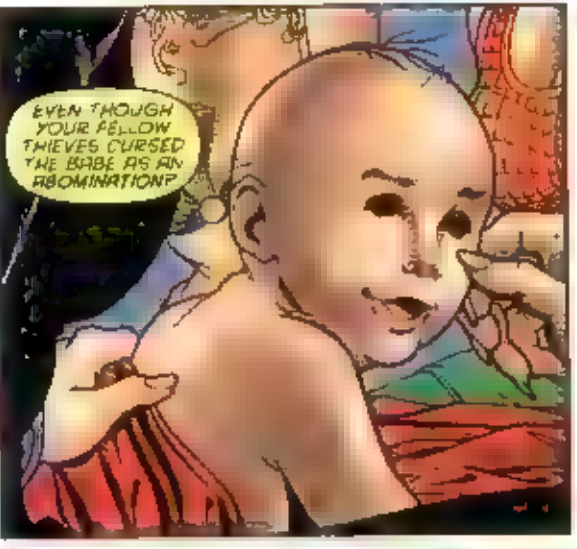
THE  
ANTIQUARY  
CONSIDERED EVERY  
CHILD A WORK  
OF ART, WORTH  
STEALING AND  
SELLING



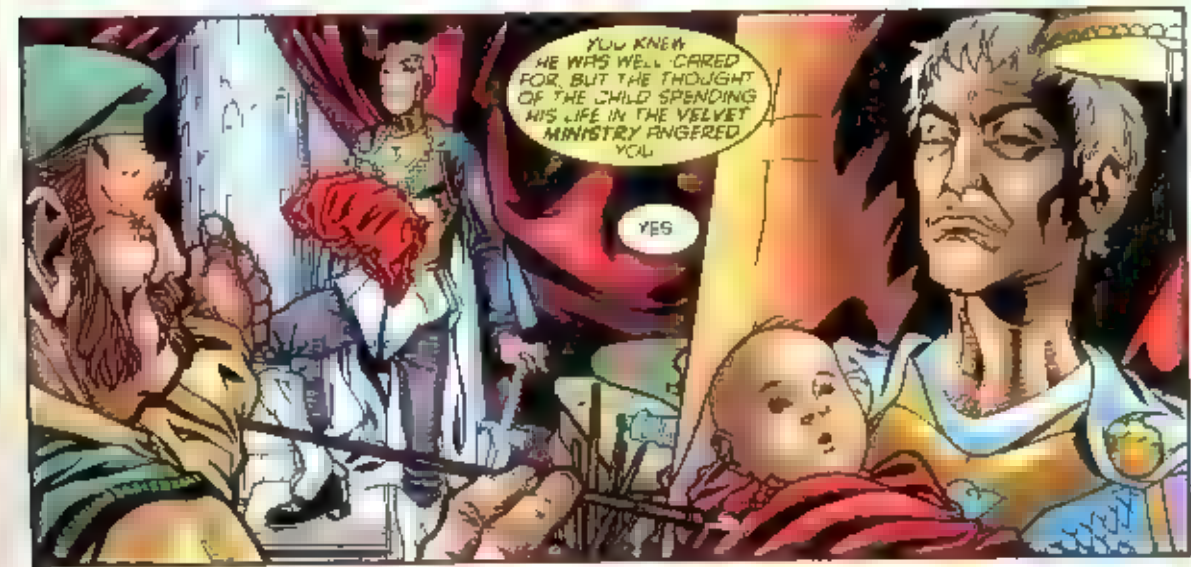
BUT HE  
DEEMED THIS  
BABY WITH THE  
RED EYES TO  
BE WORTH  
OWNING!



THAT  
TROUBLED YOU  
DIDN'T IT, JEAN-  
LOUP  
TURNING  
AN INFANT  
OVER TO THAT  
VILE MAN?



EVEN THOUGH  
YOUR FELLOW  
THIEVES CURSED  
THE BABE AS AN  
ABOMINATION?



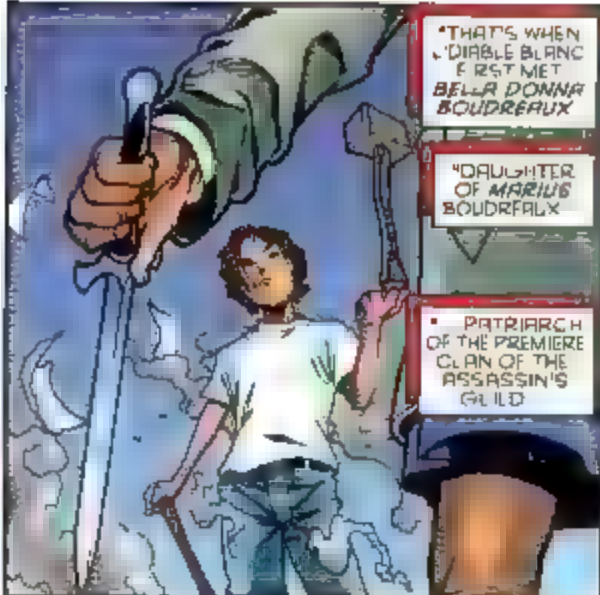
YOU KNEW  
HE WAS WELL-CARED  
FOR, BUT THE THOUGHT  
OF THE CHILD SPENDING  
HIS LIFE IN THE VELVET  
MINISTRY ANGERED  
YOU

YES





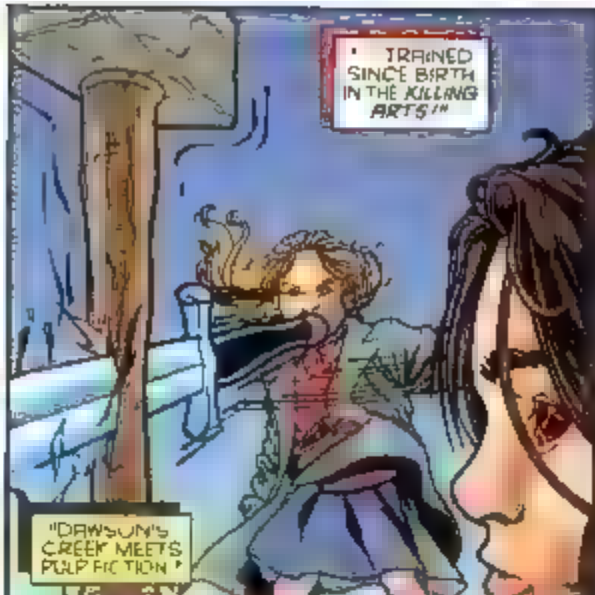




"THAT'S WHEN  
"DIALE BLANC  
FIRST MET  
BELLA DONNA  
BOUDREAUX"

"DAUGHTER  
OF MARIUS  
BOUDREAUX"

"PATRIARCH  
OF THE PREMIERE  
CLAN OF THE  
ASSASSIN'S  
GUILD"



"TRAINED  
SINCE BIRTH  
IN THE KILLING  
ARTS!"

"DAWSON'S  
CREEK MEETS  
PULP FICTION"



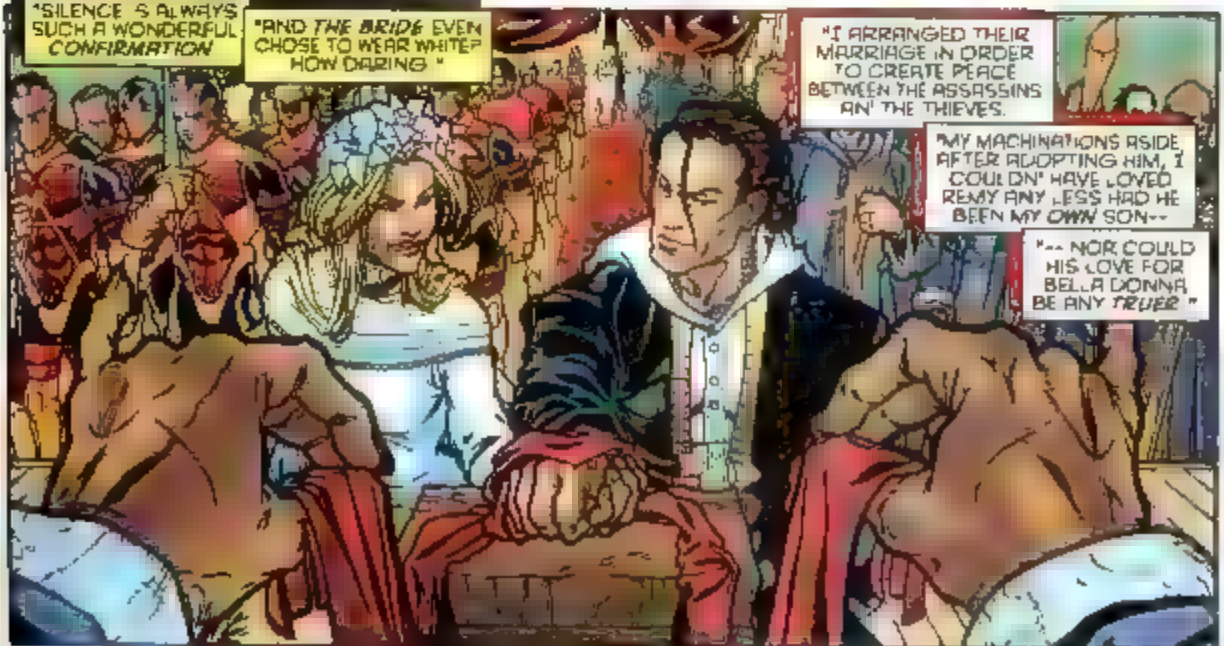
"THEY WERE CHILDREN  
IT WAS A PURE,  
INNOCENT LOVE."

"OH, DID I FORGET  
TO CLEAN THE "IDIOT"  
SIGN PAINTED  
ON MY HEAD?"

"WAS THE BOND  
FORGED BETWEEN  
REMY AND BELLE  
REALLY AN  
ACCIDENT?"



"OR THE FACT THAT  
DAYS LATER, THE BEST  
THIEF IN NEW ORLEANS  
ALLOWED A TEN YEAR OLD  
TO PICK HIS POCKET?"



"SILENCE IS ALWAYS  
SUCH A WONDERFUL  
CONFIRMATION"

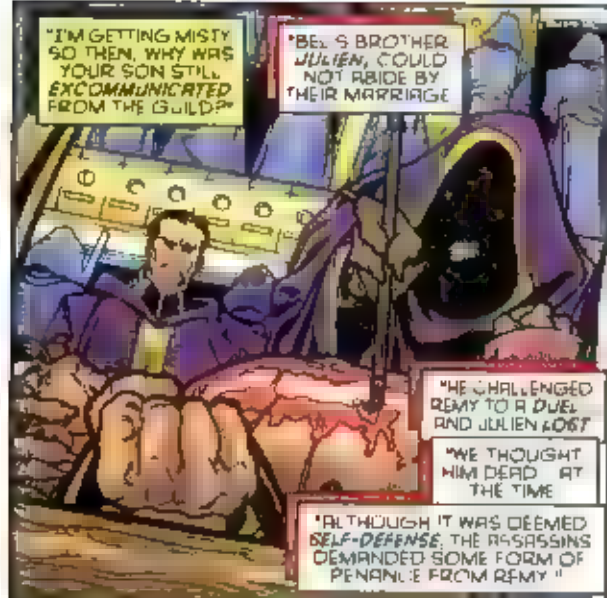
"AND THE BRIDE EVEN  
CHOSE TO WEAR WHITE?  
HOW DARING!"

"I ARRANGED THEIR  
MARRIAGE IN ORDER  
TO CREATE PEACE  
BETWEEN THE ASSASSINS  
AND THE THIEVES."

"MY MACHINATIONS ASIDE  
AFTER ADOPTING HIM, I  
COULDN'T HAVE LOVED  
REMY ANY LESS HAD HE  
BEEN MY OWN SON--"

"-- NOR COULD  
HIS LOVE FOR  
BELLA DONNA  
BE ANY TRUER."





"I'M GETTING MISTY SO THEN, WHY WAS YOUR SON STILL EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE GUILD?"

"BEL'S BROTHER JULIEN, COULD NOT ABIDE BY THEIR MARRIAGE

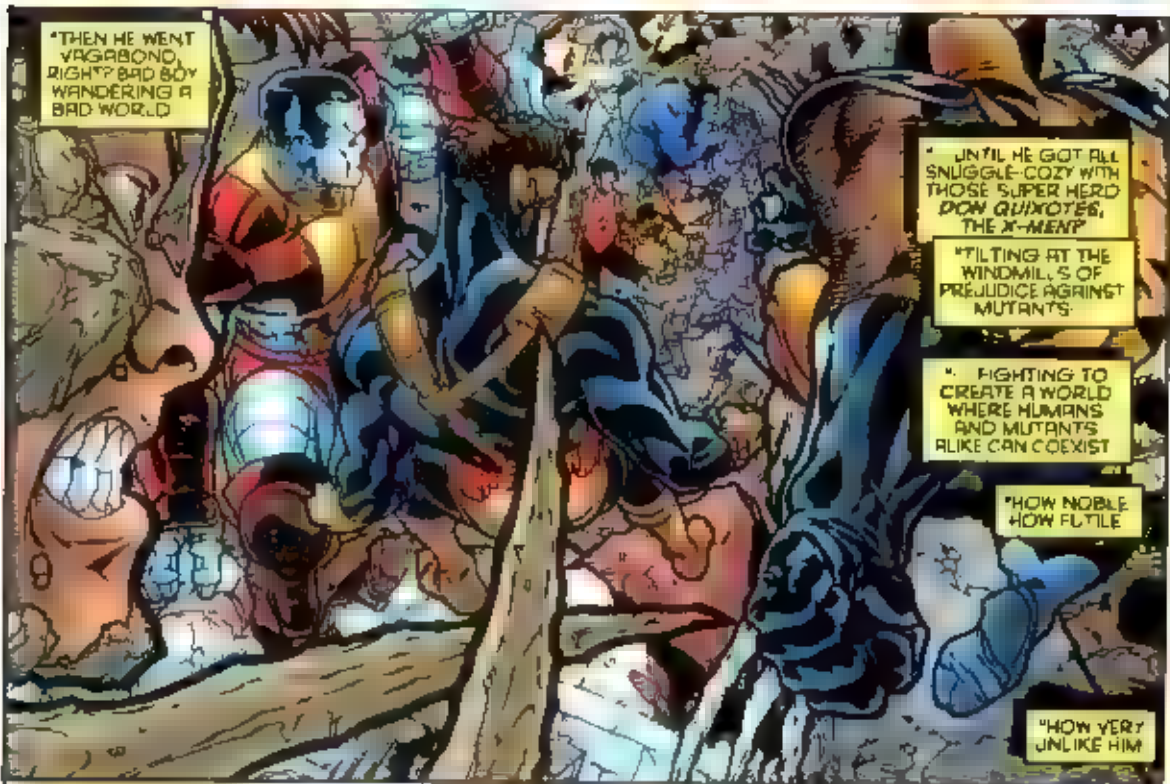
"HE CHALLENGED REMY TO A DUEL AND JULIEN LOST

"WE THOUGHT HIM DEAD AT THE TIME

"ALTHOUGH IT WAS DEEMED SELF-DEFENSE THE ASSASSINS DEMANDED SOME FORM OF PENANCE FROM REMY "



"EXILE SEEMED PREFERABLE TO EXECUTION



"THEN HE WENT VAGABOND, RIGHT? BAD BOY WANDERING A BAD WORLD

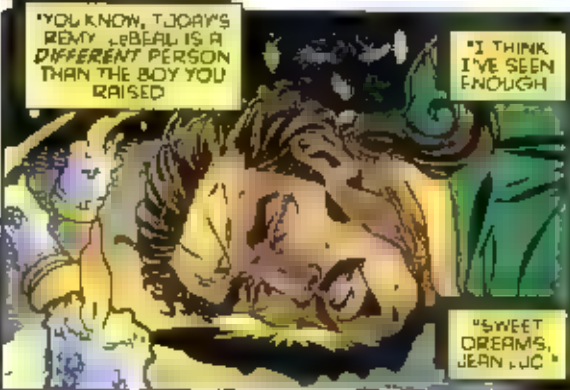
" UNTIL HE GOT ALL SNUGGLE-COZY WITH THOSE SUPER HERO DON QUIXOTES, THE X-MEN?"

"TILTING AT THE WINDMILLS OF PREJUDICE AGAINST MUTANTS

" FIGHTING TO CREATE A WORLD WHERE HUMANS AND MUTANTS ALIKE CAN COEXIST

"HOW NOBLE HOW FUTILE

"HOW VERY UNLIKE HIM



"YOU KNOW, TODAY'S REMY LEBEAL IS A DIFFERENT PERSON THAN THE BOY YOU RAISED

"I THINK I'VE SEEN ENOUGH

"SWEET DREAMS, JEAN LUC

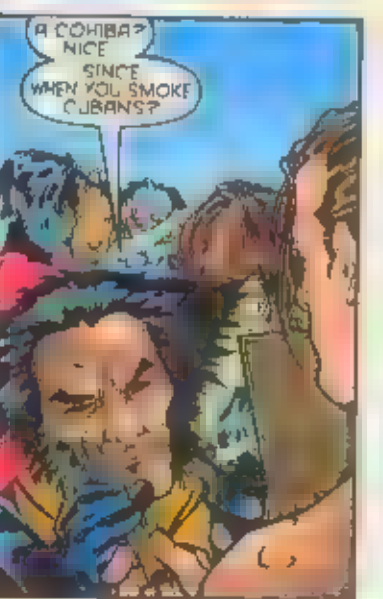
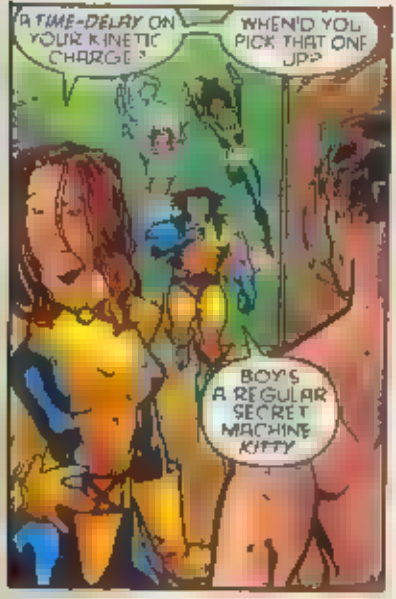
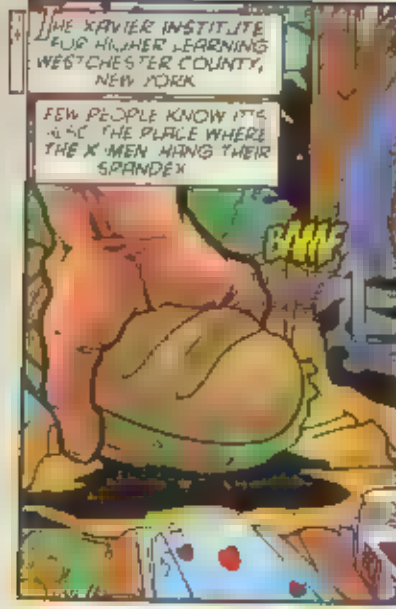


"AH- JIM- STILL IN BED? I WAS ALL IN MY MIND?"

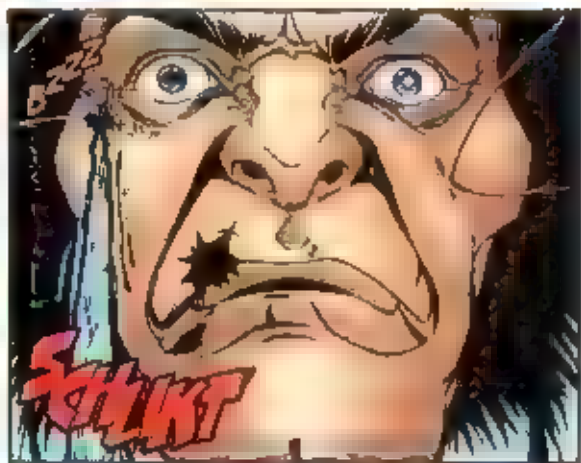
"WHAT HAS MY BOY GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO THIS TIME?"

"END INTERLUDE

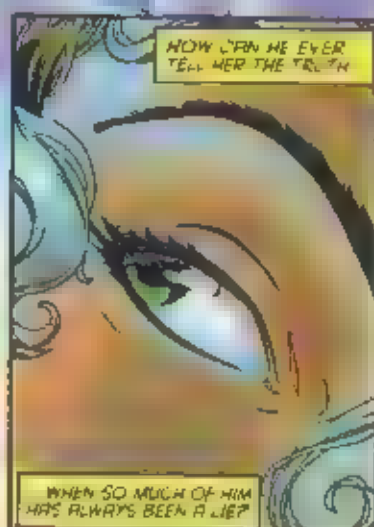
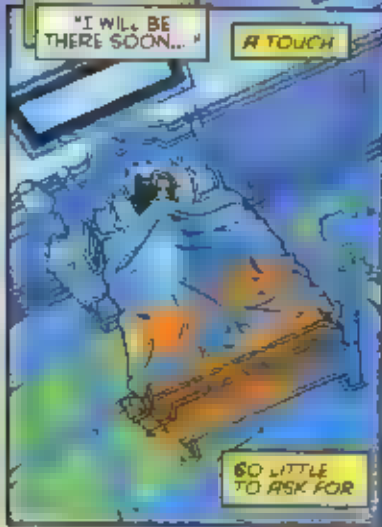




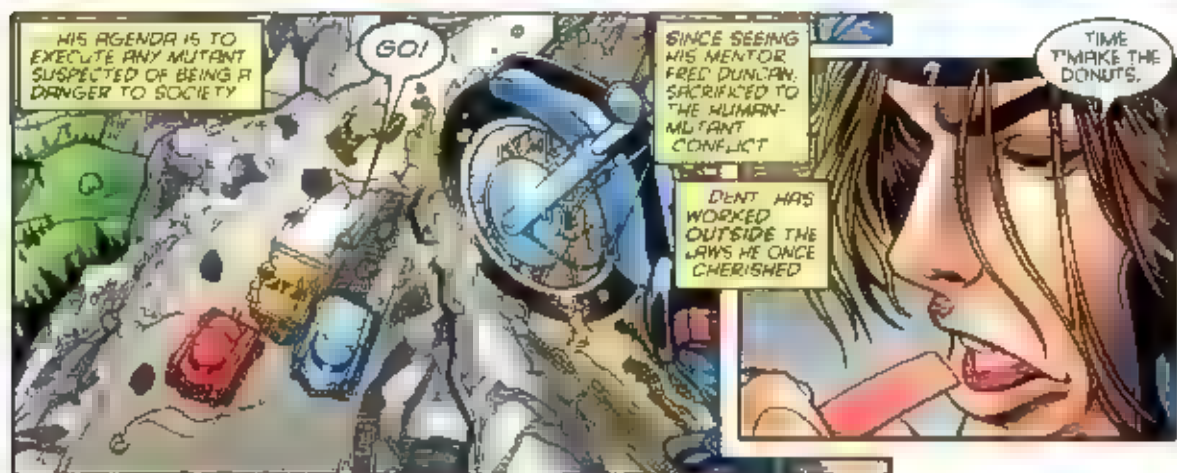
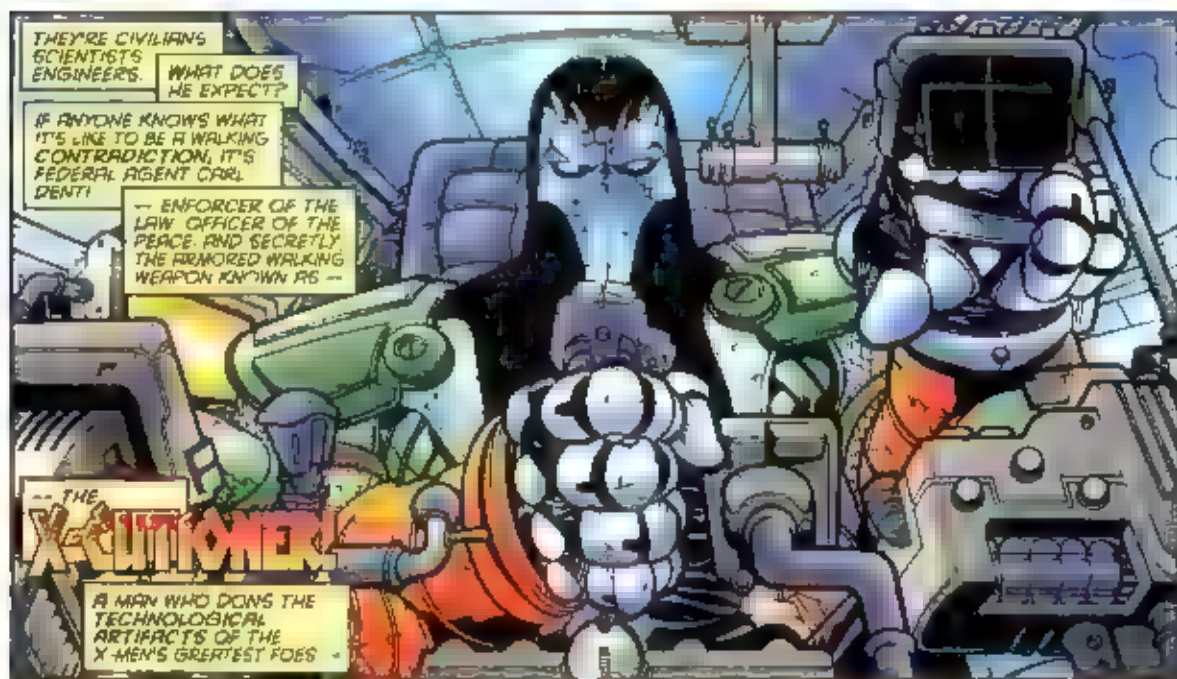
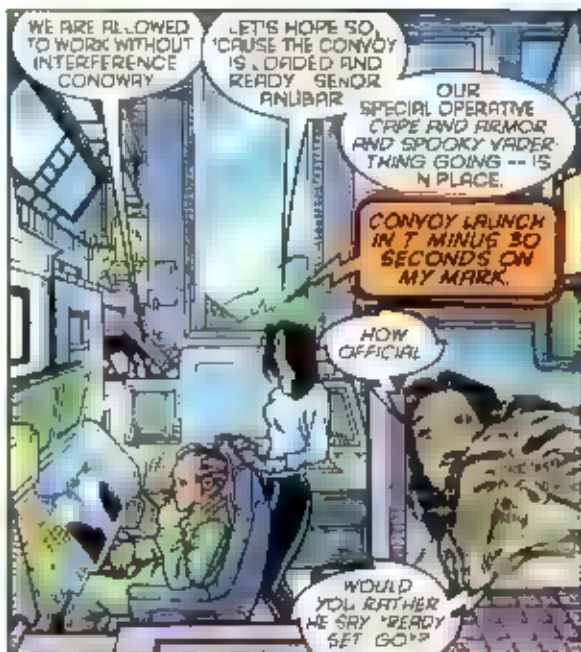
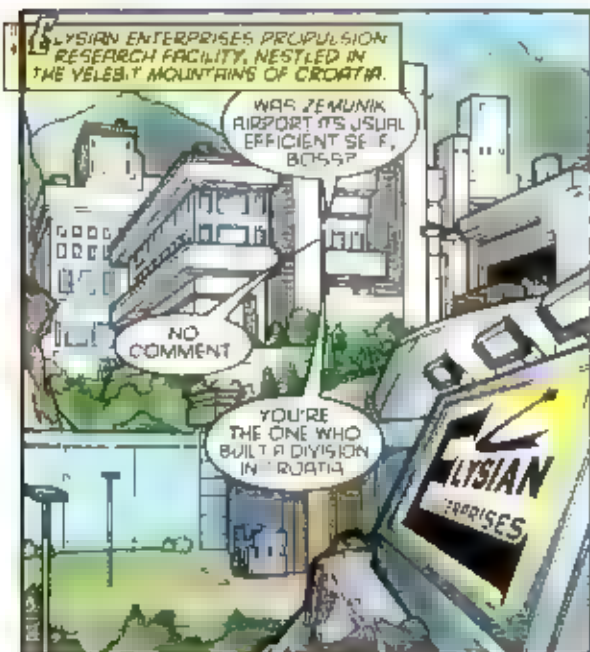














THE EVIL KNIEVEL IMPERSONATOR HAS ISSUES OF HIS OWN

WHY IS HE STEALING THINGS FOR THE NEW SON?

HOW DID GAMBIT GET HIMSELF STUCK BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE AGAIN?

IS "BLACKMAIL" OR IN "THE NAME OF SOME NOBLE MIS-JUDGED GUY?"

OR IS IT A BIT OF BOTH?

COURIER TOLD HIM "HE GRUNTS" HE OBTAINED IN CHINA WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH

THE REAL KEY TO THE MYSTERIOUS PUZZLE WAS ACTUALLY INSIDE THE SARCOPHAGUS

AND ELYSIUM ENTERPRISES MAY NOW HAVE THE MATERIALS THEY NEEDED TO BUILD A SHIP THAT WILL RACE THE GODS

BUT GAMBIT WAS HAD THE NEXT THING

A HARLEY!

Hi.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK

IS IT THIS GAMBIT PERSON?



"OR AS I LIKE  
TO CALL HIM,  
MR ANUBAS"

"- DEAD MAN  
WALKING!"

"AAAH,  
NEW PACK  
SMELL"

STEPHANPOULOUS  
CHECK  
MARK  
SIGHTED

GET  
BEHIND  
MARIAH

FIRST  
NAME COSMO  
YOUR LAST NAME  
TIES UP THE  
LINES

HAN-HAN

MARIAH -  
WHAT'S THE  
MARK  
DOING?

Uhm  
LOOKS LIKE  
A CARD  
TRICK?

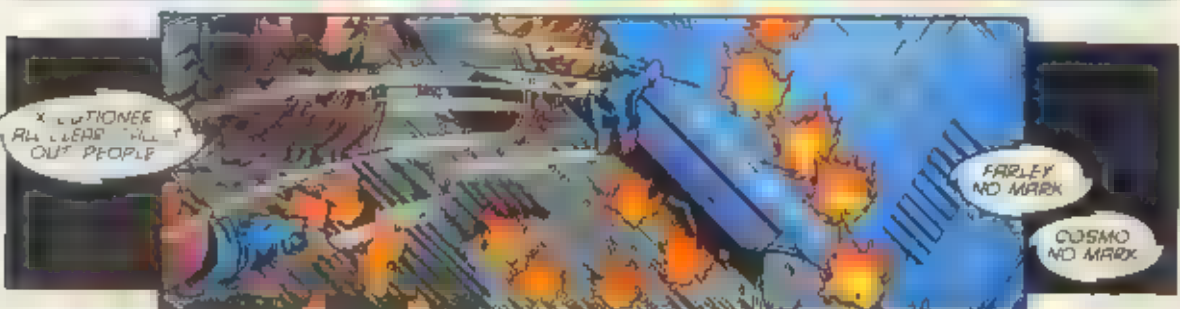


LENTHROP

M  
OKAY

BUT THE  
BLOODY ACCIDENT  
PUP DISHELED  
MY WEEWRY  
ARRAY

WHERE  
IS HE?



X-SECTIONEE  
ALL LEADS "HILL"  
OUT PEOPLE

FARLEY  
NO MARK

COSMO  
NO MARK



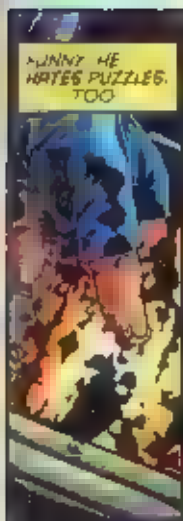
WAIT  
FARLEY HERE  
I GOT THE  
MARK



COSMO  
HE'S UNDER  
YOUR CAR!

SON  
OF A





HUNNY HE  
HATES PUZZLES.  
TOO



HE NEVER HAD  
THE PATIENCE  
FOR THEM



PSYCHIC  
REPORT

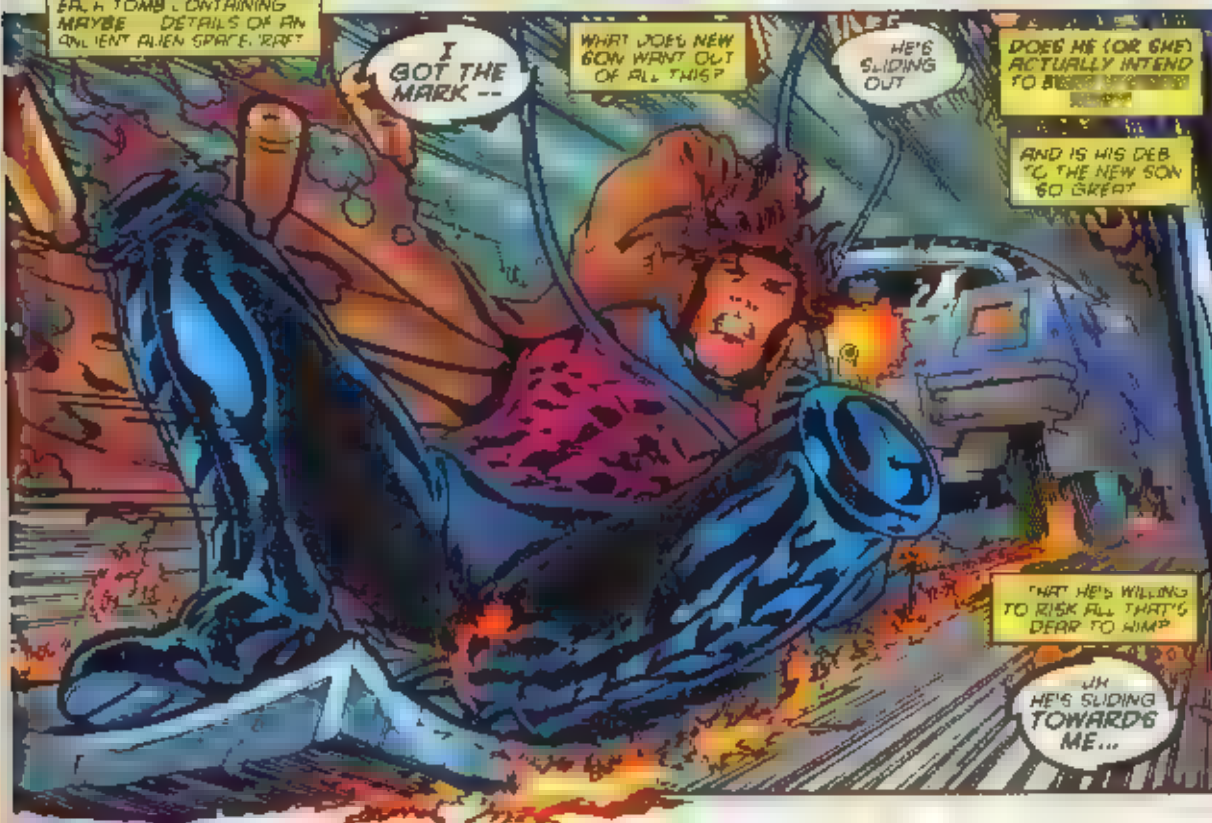


BUT HE RUNS IT THROUGH  
HIS HEAD NOW -- TWELVE  
CHINESE TOMBS



ALL MY  
SYSTEMS ARE  
LOCKED  
DOWN!

BUILT BY A WARRIOR  
REPUTED TO HAVE LIVED  
A THOUSAND YEARS



EACH TOMB CONTAINING  
MAYBE DETAILS OF AN  
ANCIENT ALIEN SPACE 'RAFT'

I  
GOT THE  
MARK --

WHAT DOES NEW  
SON WANT OUT  
OF ALL THIS?

HE'S  
SLIDING  
OUT

DOES HE (OR SHE)  
ACTUALLY INTEND  
TO BEAT ME?

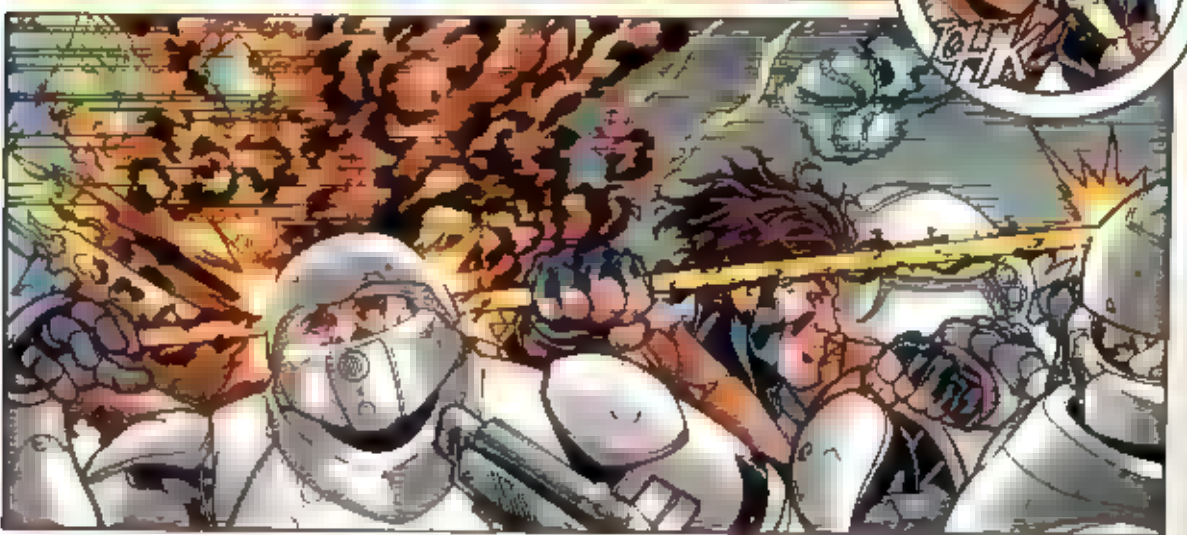
AND IS HIS DEB  
TO THE NEW SON  
SO GREAT?

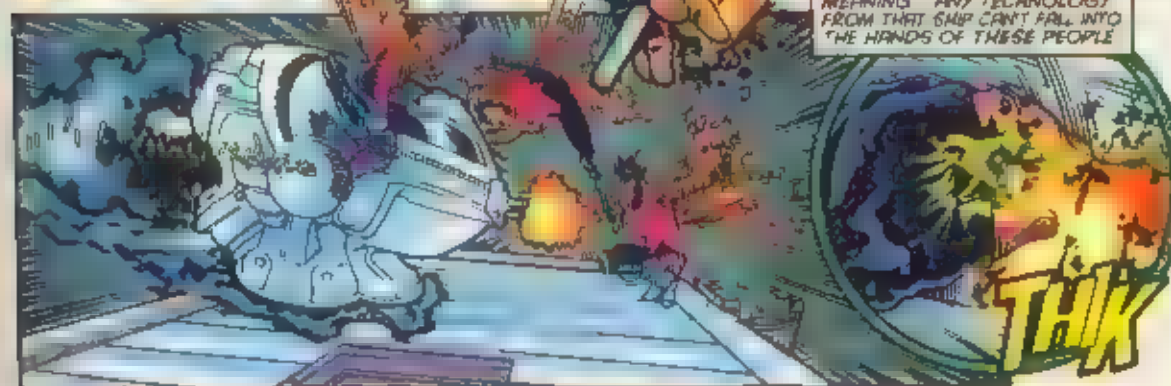
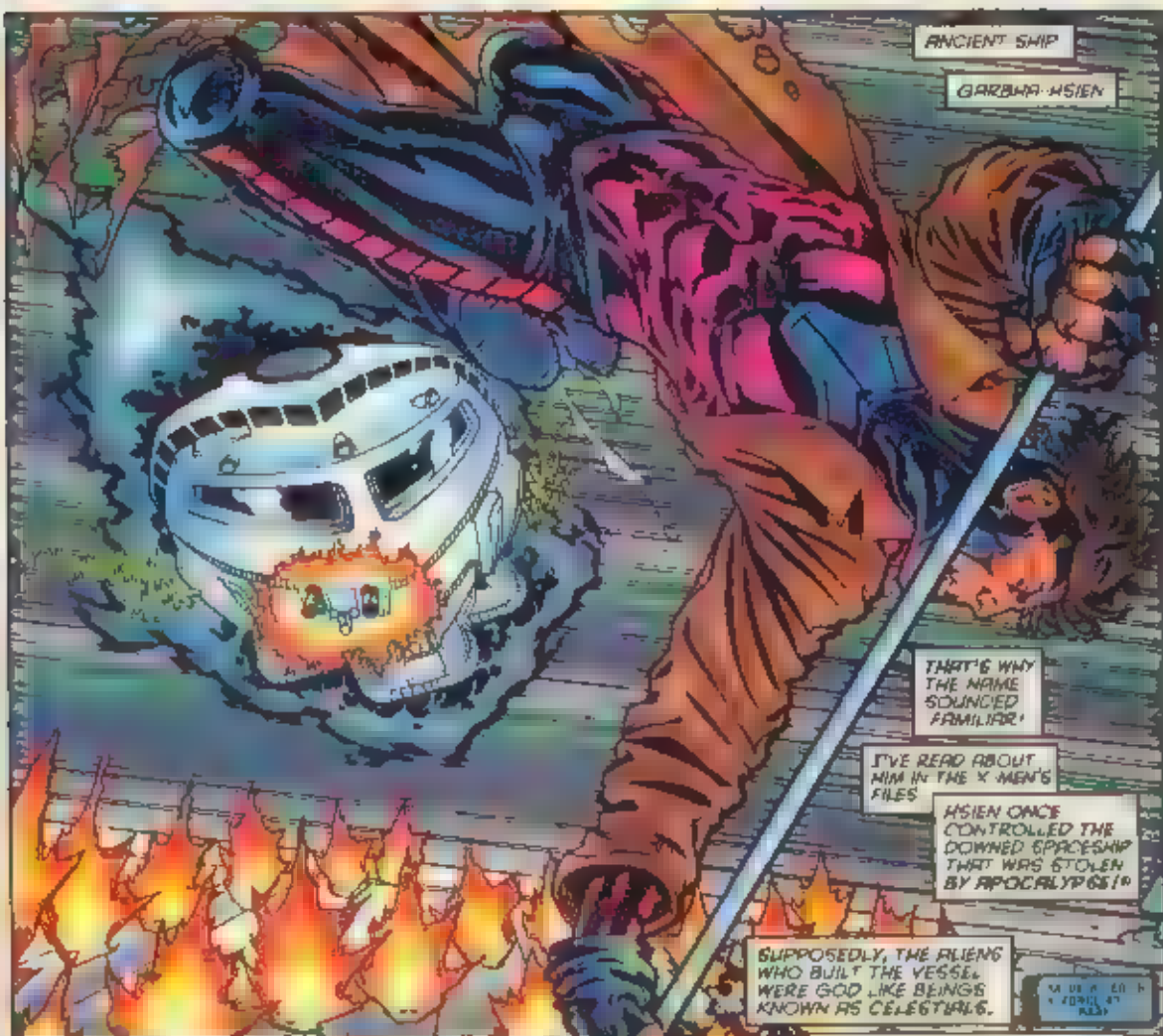
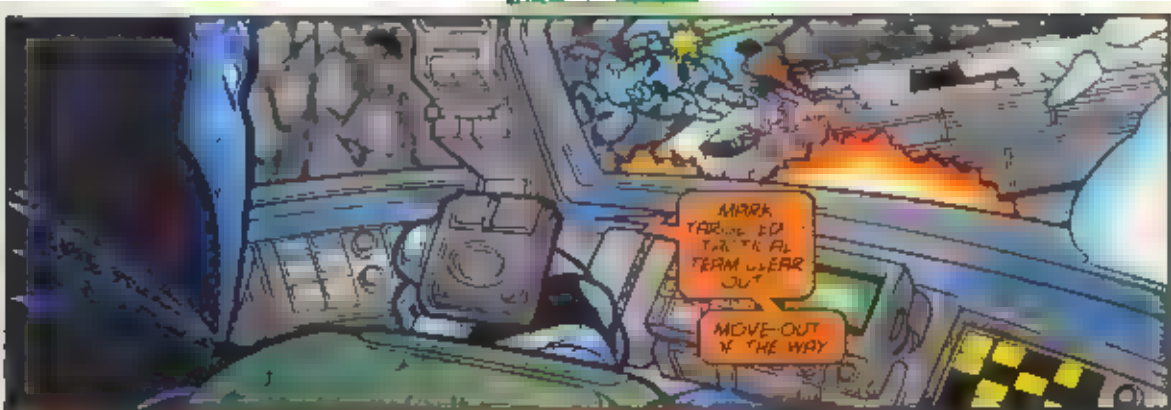
WHAT HE'S WILLING  
TO RISK ALL THAT'S  
DEAR TO HIM?

UH  
HE'S SLIDING  
TOWARDS  
ME...

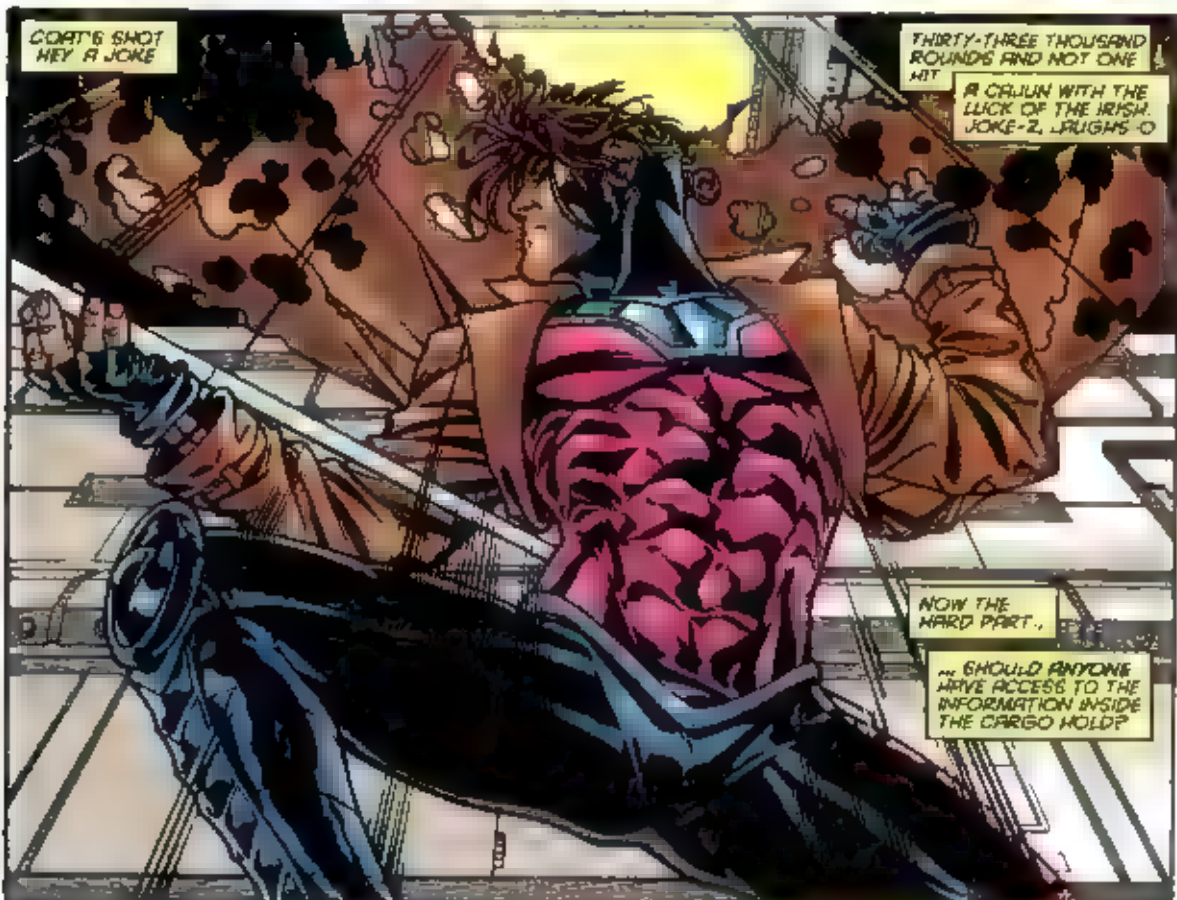
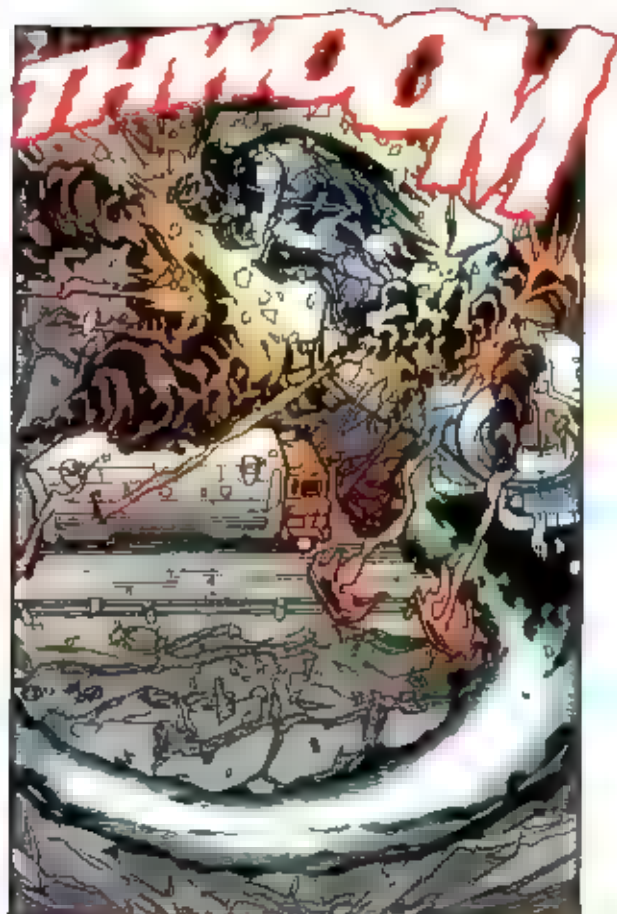
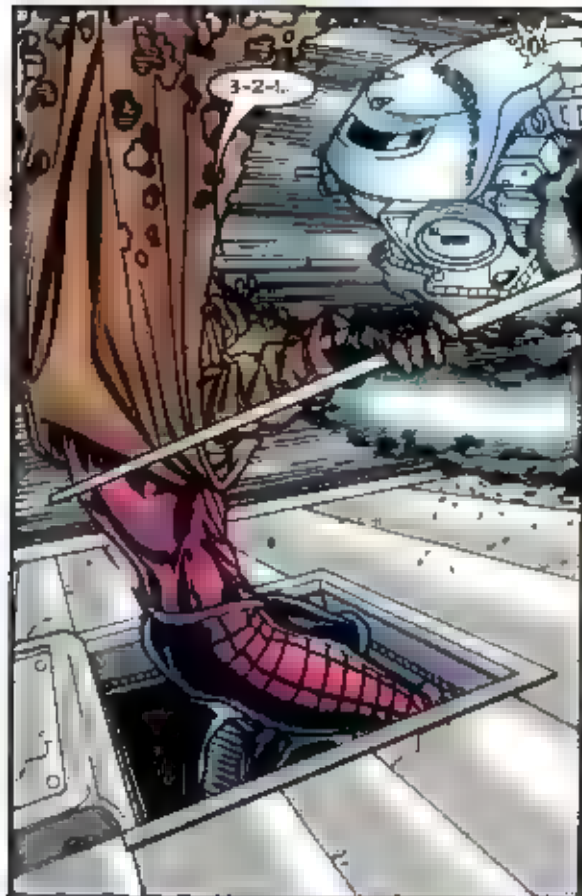








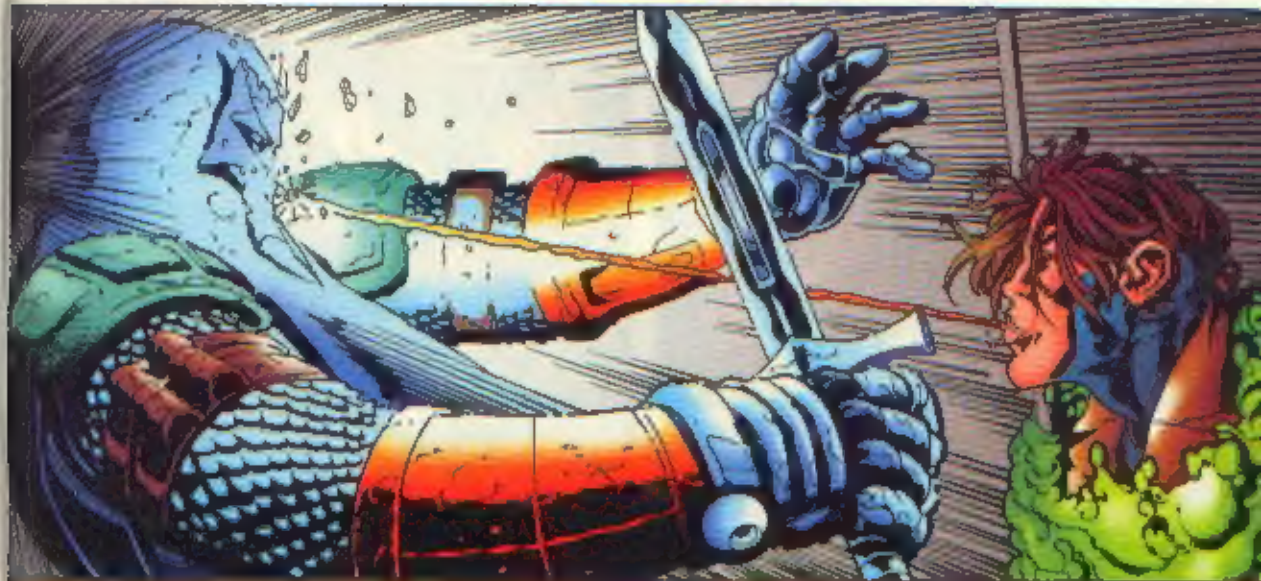








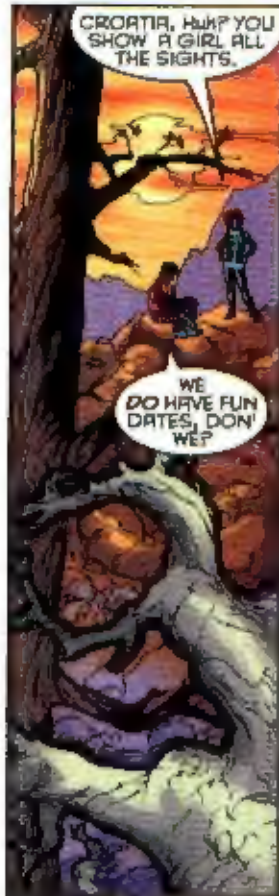












CROATIA, HWP YOU SHOW A GIRL ALL THE SIGHTS.

WE DO HAVE FUN DATES, DON' WE?



WHY'D YOU COME ALONE, GUMBOP?

BASIC MATH, THERE. INFO CAME FROM A LESS THAN REPUTABLE SOURCE.

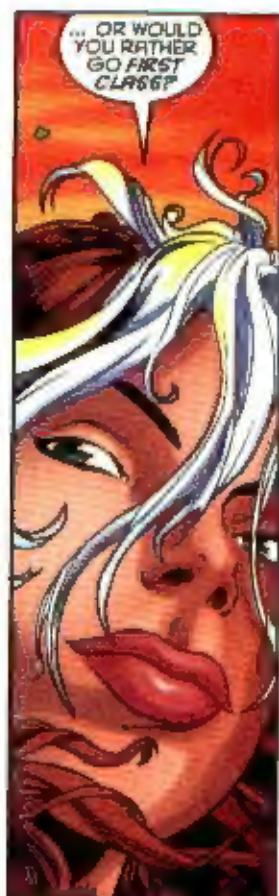


ELYSIAN IS A LEGIT COMPANY DOIN' LEGIT BUSINESS.

DIDN' WANNA DIRTY THE X-MEN'S HANDS.

OH, COOL.

SO... YOU GONNA FLY BACK COMMERCIAL...



... OR WOULD YOU RATHER GO FIRST CLASS?



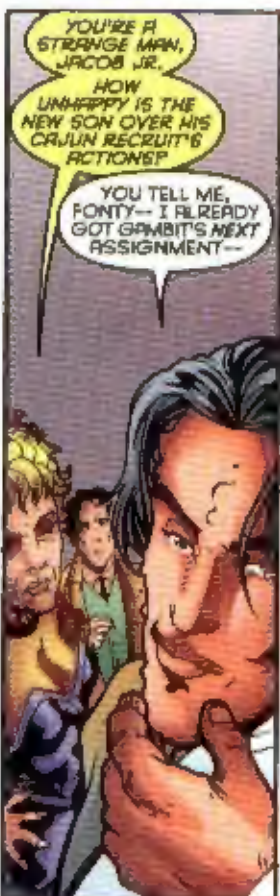
INTERLUDE Z

WHATT OH, H-E-DOUBLE HOCKEY STICKS, YOU INTERRUPTED A GREAT DREAM.



SET IN WASHINGTON D.C.P LEWINEKYT

Uhm... APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS.



YOU'RE A STRANGE MAN, JACOB JR.

HOW UNHAPPY IS THE NEW SON OVER HIS CAJUN RECRUIT'S ACTION?

YOU TELL ME, FONTY-- I ALREADY GOT GAMBIT'S NEXT ASSIGNMENT--



-- HE HAS TO STEAL SOMETHING FROM THE X-MEN!

To Be Continued!